UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI EASTERN DIVISION

CELESTINA ALSTON,)	
as next friend of A.E.S.,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
V.)	No. 4:15CV1461 CDP
)	
CAROLYN W. COLVIN,)	
Acting Commissioner of Social Security,)	
)	
Defendant.)	

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

On September 23, 2015, Celestina Alston filed the instant action *pro se* on behalf of "A.E.S.," seeking review of a final decision by the Commissioner of Social Security. Ms. Alston seeks to be appointed as next friend for A.E.S. as well as to proceed in this case *in forma pauperis*. Ms. Alston's requests will be granted, but additional information is required before this case may proceed further.

First, Ms. Alston identifies herself as A.E.S.'s parent, but she provides no other information regarding the identity of A.E.S. – most importantly, his/her name. Although Ms. Alston identifies two dependents by name on her financial affidavit, I note that both dependents share the same initials of "A.E.S." As such, this Court and the Commissioner of Social Security are unable to glean from the present record which "A.E.S." Ms. Alston seeks to proceed on behalf of. This information is necessary.

In addition, I may appoint a next friend to proceed in a civil action on behalf of a minor and/or incompetent person. Fed. R. Civ. P. 17(c)(2). While Ms. Alston indicates in her filings that she is the parent of A.E.S., she provides no basis for her request to proceed as next friend, that is, that A.E.S. is a minor and/or an incompetent person. Accordingly, I will order Ms. Alston to provide this information so that the record in this regard is complete. Because this information may contain personal identifiers relating to the identity of a minor, I will instruct Ms. Alston to file this information under seal. *See* Local Rule 2.17(B).

I also note that Ms. Alston contends in her *pro se* Complaint that she received notice of Appeals Council action on September 10, 2015. Although this information is significant in determining the timeliness of the Complaint, it would also be helpful to know the date on which the Administrative Law Judge entered the decision that denied A.E.S.'s claim for benefits. I will order Ms. Alston to provide this information as well.

Finally, I have reviewed Ms. Alston's financial affidavit and find her unable to pay the filing fee. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915. She will therefore be permitted to proceed in this case *in forma pauperis*.

Accordingly,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Celestina Alston's Motion to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* [ECF #3] is **GRANTED**.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Celestina Alston's Motion for Appointment of Next Friend [ECF #2] is **GRANTED.**

To assist the Court in further processing of this case,

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, not later than, October 30, 2015,
Celestina Alston shall file a Memorandum with the Court identifying A.E.S. by
his/her full name and setting forth the reason(s) why she seeks to proceed as next
friend on A.E.S.'s behalf, that is, whether A.E.S. is a minor or an incompetent
person. The Memorandum shall also include the date on which the Administrative
Law Judge entered the decision that denied A.E.S.'s claim for benefits. This
Memorandum shall be filed UNDER SEAL in accordance with Local Rule
2.17(B).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that process shall not issue on the Complaint until such additional information is received and filed with the Court.

CATHERINE D. PERRY

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Dated this 8th day of October, 2015.